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ABSTRACT

The Community Profiles Project uses data from the 1990 U.S. Census to describe some of the population characteristics of Asian Pacific Americans in selected Massachusetts cities and towns. The profiles include basic statistics relating to income, employment, education, and housing. This information can assist policy makers and practitioners in developing programs and policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans that are appropriate, sensitive, and effective. This profile focuses on Brookline, where the 4,512 Asian Pacific Americans were about 8% of the city's residents. Chinese accounted for over one half, and Japanese for one fourth of the Asian Pacific American population of Brookline. Among the Asian Pacific Americans, English language proficiency was highly correlated with age, with the proportion of younger Asian Pacific Americans proficient in English much higher than that of their elders. Household incomes of Asian Pacific Americans in Brookline reflected some wide disparities, but the per capita income of Asian Pacific Americans was considerably less than that of Whites, less than that of Blacks, and higher than that of Latinos. Nearly 80% of the Asian Pacific Americans in Brookline in poverty were in the 18 to 64 age group. Labor force participation rates of Asian Pacific American males and females were less than those for all groups and the total population. Slightly more than 40% of all Asian Pacific Americans in Brookline were enrolled in school, and a particularly large percentage were enrolled in college. Compared with other groups, however, a substantially larger percentage of Asian Pacific Americans over age 25 had less than a ninth-grade education, and a smaller percentage of the city's Asian Pacific Americans were high school graduates when compared with other groups. These findings reflect the diversity of the Asian Pacific American population of Brookline. (Contains nine figures and eight tables.) (SLD)

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Asian Pacific Americans in Brookline.
Community Profiles in Massachusetts

Institute for Asian American Studies · UMass Boston

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COMMUNITY PROFILES IN MASSACHUSETTS

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS *in Brookline*

INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES • UMASS BOSTON • BOSTON, MA 02125

The Community Profiles Project utilizes data drawn from the 1990 U.S. Census to describe some of the population characteristics of Asian Pacific Americans in selected Massachusetts cities and towns. The profiles include basic statistics relating to income, employment, education, and housing.This information can assist policymakers and practitioners in developing programs and constructing policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans that are appropriate, sensitive, and effective.

The Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston brings together resources and expertise from both the campus and community to conduct research on Asian Pacific American issues, to expand Asian American studies in the curriculum, and to support community development initiatives in Asian Pacific American communities in Massachusetts.

Project Staff: Project director: Paul Watanabe. Principal researchers: Carlton Sagara and Joanne Chow. Design and Production: Shauna Lo and Marilyn Wu.

Support provided by: The Boston Foundation.

CP6-12.95

I. Population Characteristics

Table 1. Population by Race*

White	47,886
Asian Pacific American	4,512
Black	1,636
Other	655
Native American	29
TOTAL	54,718

* Latinos may be of any race

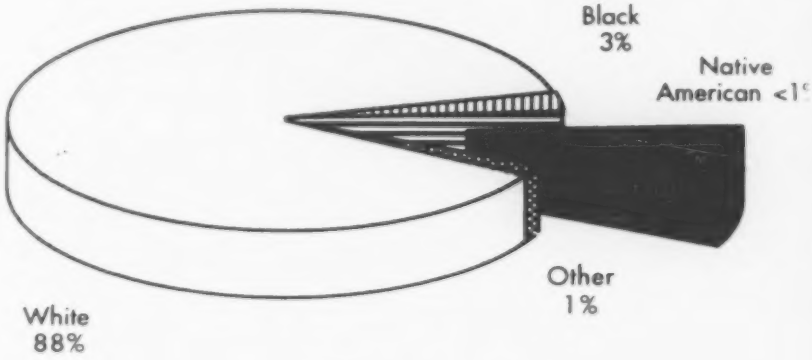


Figure 1

• The 4,512 Asian Pacific Americans recorded in the 1990 census as living in Brookline (Table 1) accounted for 8% of the city's residents (Figure 1). The number of Asian Pacific Americans in Brookline increased by more than two and one-half times during the 1980's.

• Chinese accounted for over one-half and Japanese for approximately one-fourth of the Asian Pacific American population (Table 2). Asian Indians, Koreans, Filipinos, and Southeast Asians were also well-represented in Brookline.

• The Asian Pacific American population was nearly equally divided between females and males overall and, with a few exceptions, in most age groups (Figure 2). It was also relatively young (Figure 2).

• English language proficiency was highly correlated with age with the proportion of younger Asian Pacific Americans proficient in English larger than that of older Asian Pacific Americans (Figure 3).

Table 2. Ancestry of Asian Pacific Americans

Chinese	2,490	55.2%
Japanese	1,082	24.0%
Asian Indian	313	6.9%
Korean	.241	5.3%
Filipino	109	2.4%
Other Asian	103	2.3%
Vietnamese	87	1.9%
Cambodian	43	1.0%
Laotian	22	0.5%
Thai	22	0.5%
Hawaiian	0	0.0%
Samoan	0	0.0%
Guamanian	0	0.0%
Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
TOTAL	4,512	100.0%

Figure 2. Asian Pacific Americans by Sex and Age

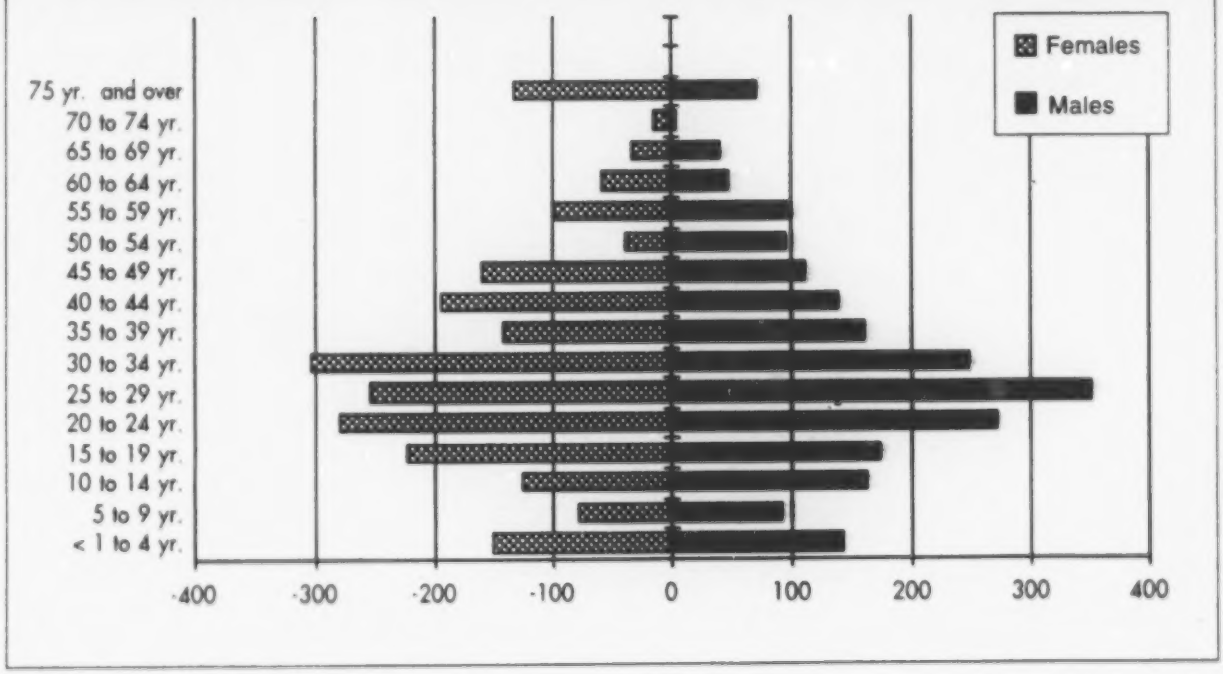
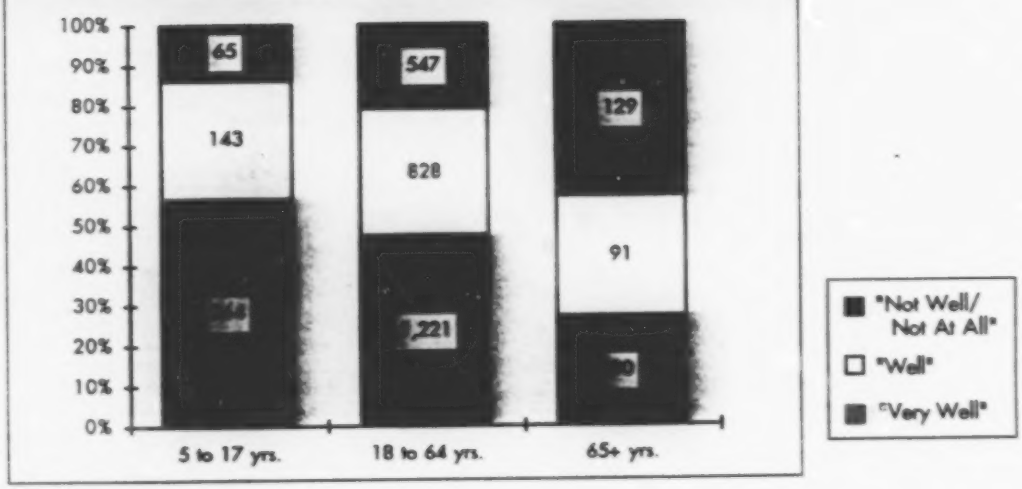


Figure 3. English Proficiency Among Asian Pacific Americans



II. Income

Table 3. Household Income by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat+ Am	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Less than $5,000	188	923	10	0	28	58	1,149
	12.1%	4.2%	1.8%	0.0%	17.0%	9.9%	4.7%
$5,000 to $9,999	113	1,366	67	0	23	28	1,569
	7.3%	6.2%	12.3%	0.0%	13.9%	4.8%	6.4%
$10,000 to $14,999	56	1,127	17	0	28	56	1,228
	3.6%	5.1%	3.1%	0.0%	17.0%	9.6%	5.0%
$15,000 to $24,999	140	2,436	59	0	13	58	2,648
	9.0%	11.0%	10.8%	0.0%	7.9%	9.9%	10.8%
$25,000 to $34,999	221	2,761	72	0	25	96	3,079
	14.2%	12.4%	13.2%	0.0%	15.2%	16.4%	12.6%
$35,000 to $49,999	263	3,214	53	0	29	120	3,559
	16.9%	14.5%	9.7%	0.0%	17.6%	20.5%	14.6%
$50,000 to $74,999	381	4,462	145	0	19	96	5,007
	24.5%	20.1%	26.6%	0.0%	11.5%	16.4%	20.5%
$75,000 to $99,999	81	2,217	76	0	0	55	2,374
	5.2%	10.0%	13.9%	0.0%	0.0%	9.4%	9.7%
$100,000 or more	112	3,676	46	0	0	17	3,834
	7.2%	16.6%	8.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	15.7%
TOTAL	1,555	22,182	545	0	165	584	24,447
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Latinos may be of any race

• Household incomes of Asian Pacific Americans reflected some wide disparities (Table 3 and Figure 4). For example, the percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the lowest income categories (those making $9,999 and less) was higher than that of all other groups, with the exception of those identified as "Other," and the the total population. The percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the two highest categories (those making over $75,000) was much less than that of whites, Blacks, and the total population and comparable to that of Latinos.

• The per capita income of Asian Pacific Americans was considerably less than that of whites (Figure 5), less than that of Blacks, and higher than that of Latinos.

• Nearly 80% of Asian Pacific Americans in poverty were in the 18 to 64 age group (Table 4).

Figure 4. Household Income for Asian Pacific Americans and Total Population

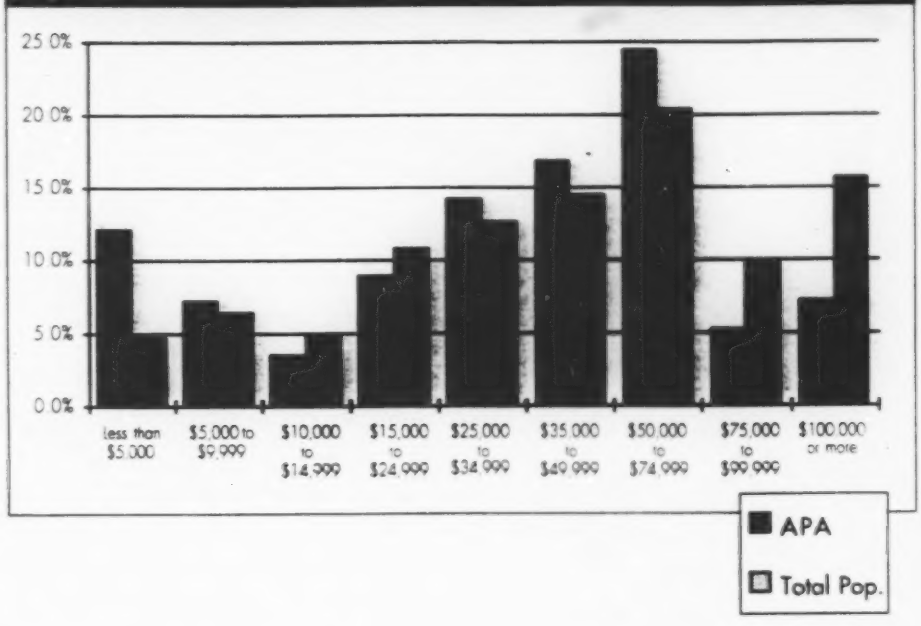


Figure 5. Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity

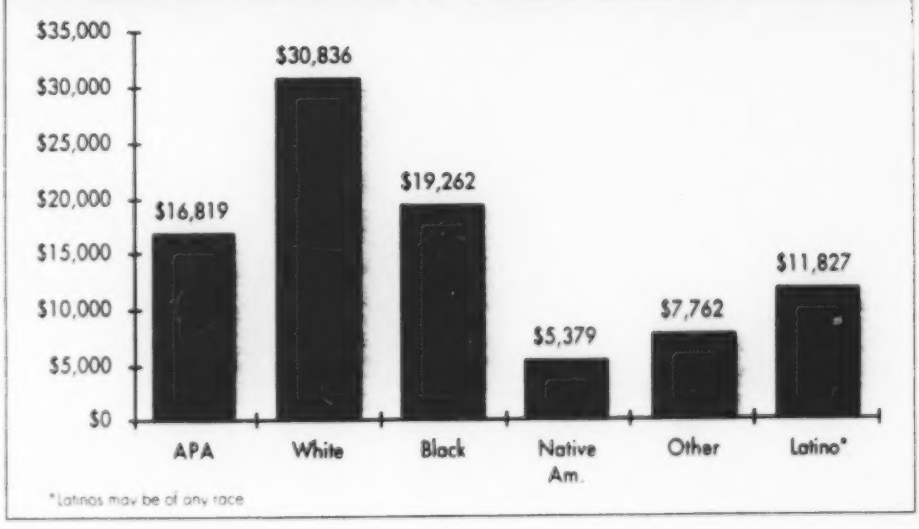


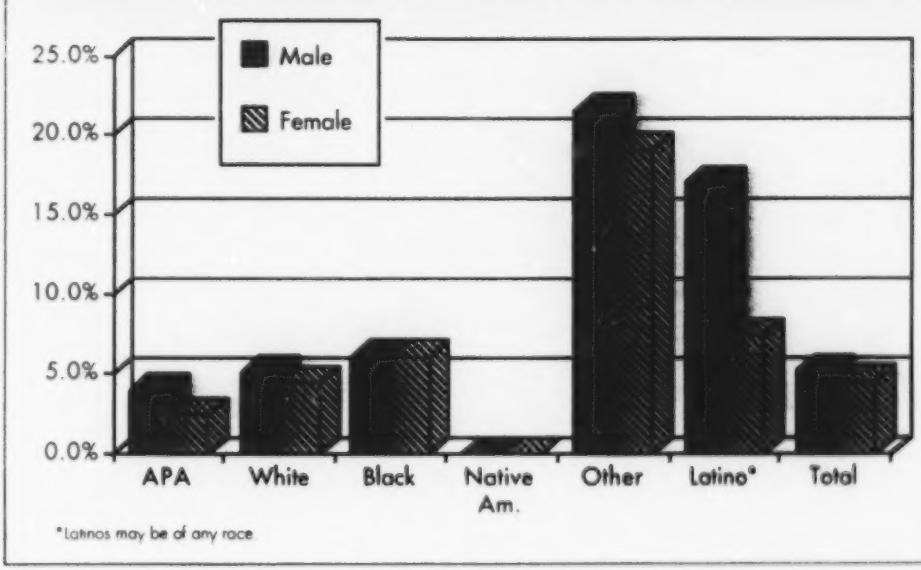
Table 4. Poverty Status by Age by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Under 5 years	24	97	15	0	13	13	149
	3.7%	2.8%	6.4%	0.0%	6.6%	2.7%	3.3%
5 years	9	19	0	0	0	2	28
	1.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.6%
6 to 11 years	40	154	22	0	30	58	246
	6.1%	4.4%	9.4%	0.0%	15.2%	12.1%	5.4%
12 to 17 years	50	187	56	0	39	69	332
	7.7%	5.4%	23.9%	0.0%	19.8%	14.3%	7.3%
18 to 64 years	511	2,370	141	0	115	336	3,137
	78.4%	67.8%	60.3%	0.0%	58.4%	69.9%	68.6%
65 to 74 years	0	181	0	0	0	0	181
	0.0%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%
75 years and over	18	485	0	0	0	3	503
	2.8%	13.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	11.0%
TOTAL	652	3,493	234	0	197	481	4,576
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

III. Employment

Figure 6. Unemployment Rate By Sex, Race and Ethnicity



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- Asian Pacific American male unemployment rates were less than those for whites, Blacks, Latinos, and the total population (Figure 6 and Table 5).

- The labor force participation rates of Asian Pacific Americans males and females were less than those for all groups and the total population (Table 5).

Table 5. Labor Force Attachment for Persons 16 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Males	1,817	17,682	663	11	190	641	20,363
In Armed Forces	0	15	0	0	0	0	15
Civilian: Employed	1,179	13,225	511	11	102	366	15,028
Civilian: Unemployed	48	706	33	0	28	75	815
Not in labor force	590	3,736	119	0	60	200	4,505
Male Unempl. Rate#	3.9%	5.1%	6.1%	0.0%	21.5%	17.0%	5.1%
Participation Rate@	67.5%	78.9%	82.1%	100.0%	68.4%	68.8%	77.9%
Females	1,885	23,894	648	6	281	864	26,714
In Armed Forces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civilian: Employed	858	14,587	435	0	127	489	16,007
Civilian: Unemployed	21	672	28	0	30	39	751
Not in labor force	1,006	8,635	185	6	124	336	9,956
Female Unempl. Rate#	2.4%	4.4%	6.0%	0.0%	19.1%	7.4%	4.5%
Participation Rate@	46.6%	63.9%	71.5%	0.0%	55.9%	61.1%	62.7%

Unempl. Rate = (Civilian Unempl.)/(Civilian Empl. + Civilian Unempl.)

@ Participation Rate=(Civilian Employed+Civilian Unempl.)/(Civilian Empl.+Civilian Unempl.+Not in Labor Force)

*Latinos may be of any race

IV. Education

Table 6. School Enrollment of Persons 3 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
In Preprimary School	86	825	33	0	0	47	944
	2.0%	1.8%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.8%
Elem. or High School	675	4,652	256	11	184	394	5,778
	15.6%	10.0%	16.2%	37.9%	29.6%	21.2%	10.9%
Enrolled in College	1,069	6,249	325	8	154	383	7,805
	24.7%	13.4%	20.6%	27.6%	24.8%	20.6%	14.7%
Not Enrolled in School	2,493	34,846	965	10	283	1,034	38,597
	57.7%	74.8%	61.1%	34.5%	45.6%	55.7%	72.7%
TOTAL	4,323	46,572	1,579	29	621	1,858	53,124
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

Figure 7. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older for Asian Pacific Americans and Total Population

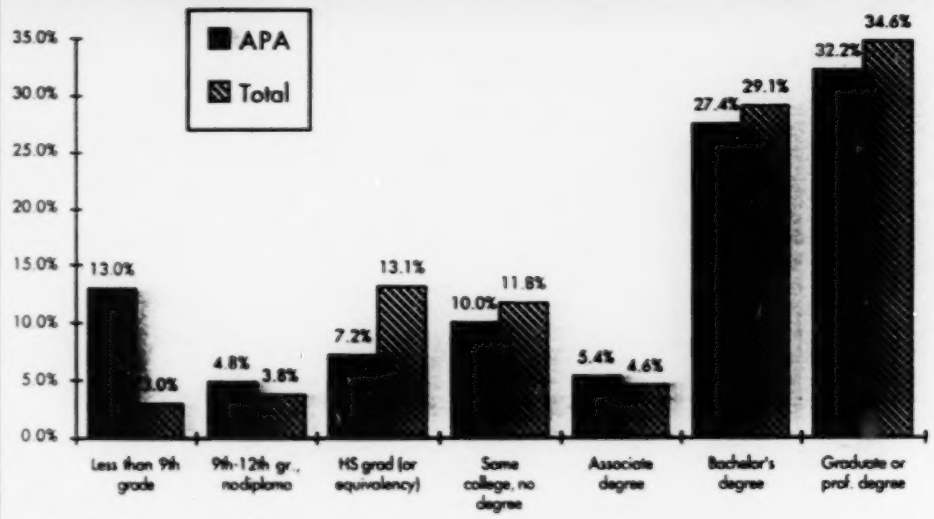


Table 7. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Less than 9th grade	364	727	88	0	31	98	1,210
	13.0%	2.0%	8.4%	0.0%	11.1%	9.2%	3.0%
9th-12th gr., no diploma	136	1,233	88	0	38	83	1,495
	4.8%	3.5%	8.4%	0.0%	13.6%	7.8%	3.8%
HS grad (or equivalency)	201	4,826	113	0	71	149	5,211
	7.2%	13.6%	10.8%	0.0%	25.4%	14.1%	13.1%
Some college, no degree	280	4,237	135	0	33	157	4,685
	10.0%	11.9%	12.9%	0.0%	11.8%	14.8%	11.8%
Associate degree	151	1,572	79	0	13	56	1,815
	5.4%	4.4%	7.6%	0.0%	4.7%	5.3%	4.6%
Bachelor's degree	770	10,499	218	9	35	233	11,531
	27.4%	29.5%	20.9%	52.9%	12.5%	22.0%	29.1%
Graduate or prof. degree	905	12,451	322	8	58	284	13,744
	32.2%	35.0%	30.9%	47.1%	20.8%	26.8%	34.6%
TOTAL	2,807	35,545	1,043	17	279	1,060	39,691
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

• Slightly more than 40% of all Asian Pacific Americans were enrolled in school (Table 6). A particularly large percentage were enrolled in college.

• The educational attainments of Asian Pacific Americans over 25 years old departed from those of the total population at several levels (Figure 7 and Table 7). A substantially higher percentage of Asian Pacific Americans had less than a 9th grade education compared with other groups. A smaller proportion of Asian Pacific Americans were high school graduates compared with other groups and the total population.

V. Housing

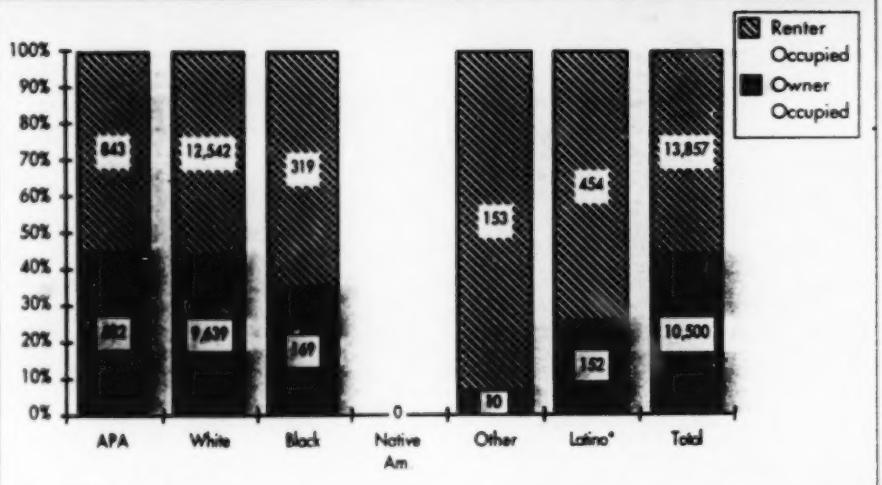
• The owner-occupancy rate for Asian Pacific Americans was comparable to that of whites and the total population (Figure 8).

• The proportion of Asian Pacific Americans who paid rents less than $1,000 was the smallest of any group (Table 8 and Figure 9).

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

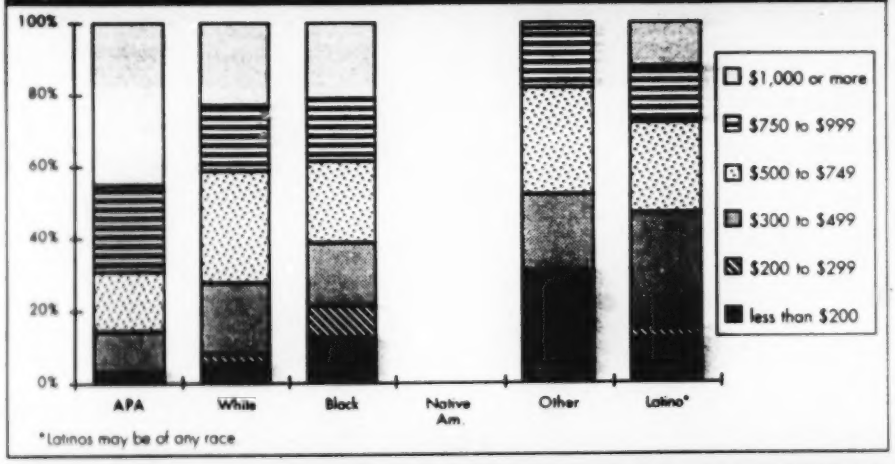
The 1990 U.S. Census data allows for the examination of the situation of Asian Pacific Americans and provides the most comprehensive available information on this group. The data, however, does have some limitations. Linguistic, cultural, and other barriers contributed to an undercounting of Asian Pacific Americans in the 1990 Census. Furthermore, by aggregating Asian Pacific Americans together, differences between nationalities were often muted. Errors in coding also limited the reliability of some data on Asian Pacific Americans.

Figure 8. Rental and Owner Occupancy By Race and Ethnicity



*Latinos may be of any race

Figure 9. Gross Rent By Race and Ethnicity



*Latinos may be of any race

Table 8. Gross Rent by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*
less than $200	16	643	39	0	45	52
$200 to $299	6	308	28	0	0	12
$300 to $499	92	2,419	56	0	32	139
$500 to $749	133	3,855	72	0	44	110
$750 to $999	195	2,239	56	0	24	68
$1,000 or more	366	2,844	68	0	3	54
No cash rent	35	212	0	0	5	19

*Latinos may be of any race